



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 16, 1998

Ms. Tamara Armstrong
Assistant County Attorney
County of Travis
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767

OR98-0156

Dear Ms. Armstrong:

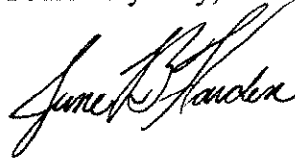
You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 111820.

Travis County Pretrial Services (the "county") received a request for information relating to a named individual. You contend that the requested information is not subject to the Open Records Act because the information consists of records of the judiciary. In the alternative, you claim that the records are excepted from disclosure by section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered your arguments and reviewed the submitted information.

As a threshold issue, you argue that the requested records need not be disclosed because they are records of the judiciary. The Open Records Act does not apply to records of the judiciary. Gov't Code § 552.003(B). In Open Records Decision No. 572 (1990), this office ruled that reports prepared by the personal bond office on individual defendants and file cards containing information on individual defendants constitute records of the judiciary which are not subject to the Open Records Act. You state that the submitted "records were gathered, developed and prepared by the Personal Bond Office in the course of monitoring a defendant released by the court on personal bond." After reviewing the submitted documents and your representations, we conclude that the documents are records of the judiciary. Access to this information is within the discretion of the courts. Open Records Decision No. 572 (1990) at 4. Therefore, you need not release the requested information under the Open Records Act. We note, however, that as records of the judiciary, the information may be public by other sources of law. Attorney General Opinions DM-166 (1992) at 2-3 (public has general right to inspect and copy judicial records), H-826 (1976); Open Records Decision No. 25 (1974); *see Star Telegram, Inc. v. Walker*, 834 S.W.2d 54, 57 (Tex. 1992) (documents filed with courts are generally considered public and must be released).

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied on as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have any questions regarding this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "June B. Harden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "June" being more prominent.

June B. Harden
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JBH/gle

Ref.: ID# 111820

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Ms. Susan Henricks
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Richardson & Hull, L.L.P.
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(w/o enclosures)